

VZCZCXRO2388  
PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #0794 0840436  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 240436Z MAR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2813  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHMHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHMHMHB/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6813  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9198  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 5292  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7409  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0480  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2361  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2179  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8406  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8965  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000794

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OITP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION  
IN TAIWAN

¶11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Monday morning included an interview with South Korean President Lee Myung Bak, during which he expressed interest in the idea of concluding a regional free trade agreement in Northeast Asia.

¶12. "Improvement Expected in Relations between China and Taiwan" The liberal Asahi editorialized (3/23):  
"....Taiwan's Nationalist Party has made a comeback.... The relationship between China and Taiwan is expected to become more stable.... Improved cross-strait relations also benefit the U.S. and Japan, both of whom want to see stability in the region. We would like China to make efforts to increase international confidence by removing its missiles that face Taiwan and reviewing its naval buildup."

¶13. "New President Should Resume Dialogue with China" The business-oriented Nikkei's editorial stated (3/23):  
"Former Nationalist Party President Ma's victory in Sunday's presidential election in Taiwan will return the party to power for the first time in eight years. The result of the election may provide momentum for Taiwan to change its relations with China. The future of cross-strait relations will have a major impact on U.S.-China relations and Japan's national security. We hope President-elect Ma will resume dialogue with Beijing and work to create stability between China and Taiwan."

SCHIEFFER